

Our Savior Lutheran Church

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GROWING
TO SERVE

MAY

2021

**Our Savior
Lutheran Church**
745 Front Street S.
Issaquah, WA

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From the Desk of Pastor Vaswig

To the people of God at Our Savior grace and peace,

We have endured a great deal together in this past year, our losses in a variety of ways have been monumental. Amidst the many losses we have experienced, the loss of worshipping together, as the brothers and sisters that we are, has felt particularly painful. For the same reason it is with joy that I can announce to you **we will once again worship together in the flesh beginning on May 23rd, Pentecost Sunday**. At a council meeting on the 20th of April the leadership voted overwhelmingly to begin our re-opening on that date.



Some on the council hoped for earlier, some thought a continued delay would still be in order, but after some meaningful conversation the date of May 23rd was agreed upon. To do the same obviously certain protocols must be followed knowing the virus lingers. All people who attend must sign in, all will continue to wear masks, all need to use the hand sanitizers upon entrance, spacing will be in place per Covid guidelines. The aforementioned instructions seem a minor inconvenience given we will be able to see one another and be with one another in the flesh.

Of course the people of God at Shepherd of the Hills will also be invited to join our reopening and there is little doubt they will be delighted to be physically present to one another in worship. If, for whatever reason, comfort level or simply mobility issues you cannot be physically present the service will continue to be Live Streamed as will be our practice moving forward. Many thanks to all who have made that possible.

One of the great joys of reopening on the 23rd is the Festival of Pentecost,

Continued on page 2...



From the Desk of the Pastor

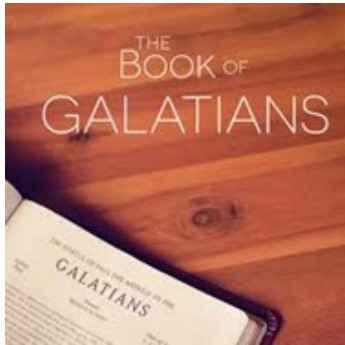
Continued from page 1...

the Spirit breathing life into the church. Likewise I believe that the same Spirit will be present to us, for us and with us as we assemble once again. The Spirit who calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies as Luther put it will be in our midst in the joy of the body of Christ coming together.

I am so grateful to have arrived at this time knowing the desert experience we all have gone through. Our parched throats yearning for the companionship of one another will be satisfied as we quench our thirst for one another. So mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 23rd at 10:00AM**, as we will be together once again with the Spirit of Pentecost blowing through our worship. In the meantime we continue to pray for God's guidance and wisdom as we seek safely and carefully to reopen our worship space. May the Lord be with you throughout this Easter season as we await the great Pentecost Festival, yes in the presence of one another.



God's peace,
Pastor John L. Vaswig



Sunday Morning Education Hour: A Study of Galatians

Join Pastor Vaswig for Adult Education Hour on Zoom starting Sunday, May 2nd.

The book of Galatians is thought to be the first of Paul's letters, an astonishing text written to a community who had forgotten or simply neglected the very message of freedom the Apostle had originally proclaimed. The book remains ever so pertinent to our lives as Christians living in the 21st century. So join us via zoom Sundays at 9:00 am through May.

9:00 AM Study of Galatians with Pastor John

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/97225570244?pwd=NitqV3FiUGJqanZVNINXYlcxRVVRUT09>

Meeting ID: 972 2557 0244

Passcode: 064703

Dial-in: 253-215-8782

Worshipping Together in May



Worship Live With Us Sundays at 10:00 am

Worship services are now broadcast live from our sanctuary at our customary 10:00 am service time, with the prelude preceding. A link to the service will be published each week, or you can use this link: [Worship Live](#).

Note: if you try the link prior to 10:00 am each Sunday, you may see a message "video unavailable."

Unable to watch at 10:00am? Live services will be recorded and posted to the [Our Savior YouTube Channel](#). If needed, pull down the menu under "Uploads," then click on "Past Live Streams." You can also find links on our [website](#), www.oslcissaquah.org.

Can we gather for worship at OSLC? For now, we will continue to worship live from home. Beginning on **Sunday, May 23rd, in-person worship in the sanctuary will begin on a limited basis.**

Although we will still be "worshipping together at home" for a few more weeks, this is an exciting next step in our congregation's worship life – both during these Covid days, and as we look to ministry possibilities in the future.

Thank you for your patience as we thoughtfully enter into this new phase of worship life.

Our Savior Re-Opening Committee



Sunday, May 23rd Return to Church Building Gatherings & In-Person Worship!

With the movement into Phase 3 of Washington State's COVID-19 health guidelines, Our Savior Lutheran Church has been working toward re-open our building for small group gatherings and limited in-person worship. ****Should King County roll back to Phase 2, revised guidelines for building use and gatherings will be distributed.**

Introduction of In-Person Worship

We will begin to hold in-person worship on a limited basis on Sunday, May 23rd. Washington State Health Safety Guidelines for religious organizations to assemble for worship are more extensive than the general access guidelines and must be followed by everyone, regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status.

Opening the Building to Individuals & Small Groups

Protocols have been established and approved by the Church Council for groups of 15 or smaller to resume gathering at the church beginning on Sunday, May 23rd. Vaccinated or not, all who enter the building must wear masks and maintain social distancing. In addition, no food or drinks can be consumed while in the building. Please become familiar our guidelines listed on the following page before you arrive.

Stay Connected

Prefer to continue to worship at home? Tune in to our live on-line worship service broadcast at 10:00 am each Sunday at [Worship Live](#), or try our Sunday morning Bible study zoom call at 9:00 am (see page 2).

Please continue to be patient as we move into this new phase of normalcy. The members of the OSLC Reopening Team are: Sue Johnson, Cheryl Hauser, Connie Fletcher, Jean Pass, and Lori Downey.

Our Savior Re-Opening Committee

Building Use Guidelines for Individuals & Group Gatherings During Reopening—Phase 3

****Should King County roll back to Phase 2,
revised guidelines for building use and
gatherings will be distributed.**



General Use Protocols:

- Only gatherings of **15 or less** are permitted until we reach Phase 4.
- Everyone must enter and exit the building through the main entrance or the Anderson Hall entrance. All other exit doors may not be used.
- Covid-19 information signage have been posted at these two entrances, including one that can be read from the outside, that lists the symptoms of Covid-19. Anyone exhibiting any of the following symptoms must go home, stay safe, and recover.
 - * Fever greater than 100° F
 - * New cough
 - * Shortness of breath, Sore throat
 - * New muscle pain/achy sore muscles (myalgias)
 - * New fatigue or sudden onset of discomfort/illness (malaise)
 - * New loss of sense of smell/taste (anosmia)
 - * New GI (gastrointestinal) symptoms including diarrhea
 - * Chills
 - * Runny nose
- Everyone must wear a mask while in the building. Masks will be available at the check-in station.
- Touchless gel hand sanitizer stations are located at the entrance.
- A check-in station is provided at the entrance for people to write their names and contact information. Alternatively: One person may hold contact information for the whole group.
- 6-foot social distancing must be maintained.
- Only one person may use the restroom at a time.
- No food or drinks may be consumed in the building during group gatherings.
- The kitchen may not be used for group gatherings. [Exception: The kitchen may be utilized for food preparation in support of the Issaquah community meals program.]

NOTE: Worship Protocols: Pastor John Vaswig is working with the Worship Team to determine the protocols for on-site worship attendance.

Community Outreach



**“I don’t know where else I would go for food if Meals wasn’t here”
– Issaquah Meals Program Guest**



Contribute Today to the Issaquah Community Meals Program

Dear Supporters of Members and Friends of Our Savior,

Did you know that 40 percent of individuals surveyed said that the Issaquah Meals Program is the only food source they can count on? Issaquah Meals Programs meets one of the basic needs for our neighborhood’s most vulnerable communities. For 30 years, individuals and families have a place to come to receive a hot meal with no judgement or questions asked. Please help this program if you can by making a donation.

What is Issaquah Meals Program (IMP)? The program was started by a late St. Joseph parishioner, Ruby Laird in the 1980’s. It continued as part of Catholic Community Services programs in 1989. Initially meals were served 2 times a week, until it became necessary to offer meals Monday through Friday. Today meals are prepared and served at the Issaquah Community Hall by wonderful volunteers who come from different faith traditions and backgrounds. Help support our mission in welcoming guests from the community into our no-questions-asked dinner program.

In peace,
Connie Fletcher, Community Outreach Committee

Click here to give: www.ccsww.org.

Small Group Ministries



Holden Village - Registration is Open!

Holden is planning to welcome guests for a modified summer season! Join them this summer for the healing power of community and a celebration of our shared journey as we explore "The Samaritan Traveler." If you are unable to join us in person, we look forward to connecting via virtual programming.

Learn more here: www.holdenvillage.org/



Powerful Giving with Your Smartphone

Apps make life easier. With GivePlus Church, you can use your smartphone to give anytime, anywhere!

- ⇒ Download the FREE app on your Apple or Android phone
- ⇒ Make a one-time or recurring donation using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account
- ⇒ Log in or donate as a guest
- ⇒ Securely and conveniently manage donations using Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password

Small Group Ministries

*From Your
Stewardship
Committee...*

faith+lead | LUTHER SEMINARY

NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER STATION

A spiritual practice for
praying for and with your
neighbors

FIND A NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT WHERE YOU CAN EXHIBIT

This could be a farmer's market,
county fair, arts and crafts show,
expo, or festival.



SET UP A SIMPLE TABLE

Include a sign with your church's
name, strips of cloth, permanent
markers, and a display where the
cloth can be tied, such as a loom,
clothesline, or chicken wire.



INVITE PEOPLE TO WRITE PRAYERS

Put them on the strips of cloth
and hang them on the display.



BE AVAILABLE

This practice will open up life-
giving conversations. Be there to
listen, talk, and pray with those
who need it.



Find more great practices
faithlead.luthersem.edu

Northwest Washington Synod

From the Bishop:

In the book *Anxious People*, the author, Fredrik Backman, crafts a humorous, poignant, and wise story of a group of people thrown together because of a bank robbery. But the bank robbery is the least interesting part of the book. The characters, who seem flighty and weird and strange or just unlikeable at the beginning of the book, change into complex humans with such rich inner lives that you love each of them by the end of the story. This was one book that I was sad to see end because I wanted to continue with each character in their journey.



Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

I finished this book during Holy Week. And I couldn't help but reflect on the flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable people that surrounded Jesus that we get to know in the Gospels. These men and women who leave everything to follow Jesus – and who end up leaving Jesus after his arrest – only to once again connect with Jesus after his death and resurrection – are (we must admit) flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable.

Thomas who is skeptical throughout the Jesus story and who won't recognize Jesus until seeing his wounds.

Mary Magdalene who can't recognize Jesus until he calls her by her name.

The disciples locked in a room, afraid to go out, and finally just going back to fishing until Jesus shows up once again.

I mean, ask yourself:

Would we really have wanted John the Baptist over for a barbecue?

Would we really have accepted a woman who washed Jesus' feet as being justified when she extravagantly wasted an expensive bottle of perfume?

Would we have embraced the woman who bled for over a decade and invited her to our book club even after she assured us that she was cured and clean?

I finished this book during Holy Week. And I couldn't help but reflect on the flighty, weird, strange and unlikeable people around me – on the news, on social media, in my neighborhood – and how I have judged them based on a very superficial understanding of who they are and what makes up their story. I call them ignorant or lazy, bigoted or uncaring, dirty or smelly or unclean in some way.

But as I continue to reflect on Backman's compelling story of seven "idiots" (as he calls them), and, as I continue to reflect on Holy Week, (even though it is now way past Holy Week), I see Jesus kneeling down and washing feet. I hear Jesus saying, "Peace be with you." I experience Jesus embracing disciples on a beach, offering them fish, and saying, "Feed my sheep." Loving and caring and forgiving – even though these hu-

Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA

mans are flighty, weird, strange and, at times, unlikeable.

None of us are Jesus. None of us can embrace the other as Jesus did. And yet, we are called, as sinners and as beloved children of God, to hear another's story. To listen. To reflect. To forgive. To ask for forgiveness. To engage. To be silent when needed and speak when necessary.

For my part, I repent. I repent for my judgment, for my verdict that I render without knowing the complexity of another's story, for my blindness to my complicity, for my withholding forgiveness in the name of self-righteousness, for my refusing to acknowledge my need for forgiveness, and for my judgment on who God loves and who God does not love (because, as I have been taught, if God only loves those I love, than I have remade God in my image).

So I ask you, dear Beloveds of NWWA Synod, with all of your stories, how may your stories be joined into the One Story? How may your hearts be open to the flighty, weird, strange, sometimes unlikeable (but always God's beloved) people that we are called to love? What are your thoughts, feelings, explorations, attempts, experiments? I'd love to hear how you are living into God's Holy Community of love, grace, compassion, justice and peace.

As for you, you are called. By name. Embraced, loved, and cherished – in all your flighty, weird, strange, sometimes unlikeable ways. And always, always, God's beloved.

+ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



National Lutheran Choir



Light Dawns will be a virtual gathering of music, festivities and community to support the National Lutheran Choir.

As Spring is dawning, we are hopeful that our time to gather again in person is nearing too. During the COVID-19 crisis we have been fortunate to share music with both our regular audiences as well as new audiences through the reach of digital content. As we plan for a return to live programming in the last two months of 2021, we are also seeking to continue production of virtual programming to keep our music accessible to everyone.

**To attend *Light Dawns*, join us at [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com)
on Sunday, May 23 at 4pm Central Time / 2pm Pacific.**

Lutheran Counseling Network

Lutheran Counseling Network

Faith and Everyday Life

May 2021



Psalm 139: 1-18

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me. ²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. ³You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. ⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. ⁷Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. ⁹If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, ¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. ¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," ¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. ¹³For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. ¹⁷How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸I try to count them — they are more than the sand; I come to the end — I am still with you.

This psalm has special meaning in our family. It is a favorite of our son's birth mother. I can see why. It talks about how God created each of us deliberately, and knows and loves each of us intimately. I can imagine that in the days leading up to her son's birth, it must have reassured her that he was no accident. It was God who knit him together in her womb. God created him on purpose, and had a plan for his life. This must have been so comforting as she prepared her heart for her adoption plan. She knew she wouldn't be there each day to see her birth son's life unfold. She had to trust that God had a purpose in mind for him, and would be watching over him, loving and guiding him, even when she couldn't. The psalm has special meaning for me too, as an adoptive mother. It assures me that I am part of the plan for my son's life. Knowing God has created me to be just who I am has provided healing from the sadness of not being able to conceive. It assures me that my path is a good one. Knowing God loves me just as I am fills me with love I want to share. It fuels who I am as a mom. It helps me seek to know my son, to love him just as he is, to offer guidance and support. It also reminds me that ultimately, he is God's child, and that God will guide him when he's out on his own, beyond my influence. This is true for each of us. God created each of us with love, just as we are. God has plans and a purpose for us. We are never beyond God's reach, or beyond God's loving care. We are never alone. Thanks be to God!

Written by a staff member of Lutheran Counseling Network

Pastoral Care & Visitation



Emergency Pastoral Care

For emergency pastoral care, please contact
OSLC Transition Pastor John Vaswig at:
253-677-4515 (mobile)
JLVaswig@gmail.com

Pastor John's Office Hours:
Tuesday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Thursday 10:00 am – 12:00 pm



Pr. John Vaswig



Lay Visitation Ministry

Do you know of someone who may be home-bound, in senior care, or otherwise would like a phone call from our Visitation Ministry, and is not currently receiving visits? If so, please pass their name along to Kate Gagnon, OSLC's Lay Visitation Minister at kjgagnon@yahoo.com, or 425-200-0481.



May Worship Readings

Sunday, May 2 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40
Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31
Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21
Gospel: John 15:1-8

Sunday, May 9 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48
Psalm: Psalm 98
Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6
Gospel: John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 16 — Seventh Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm: Psalm 1
Second Reading: 1 John 5:9-13
Gospel: John 17:6-19

Sunday, May 23 — Day of Pentecost

First Reading: Acts 2:1-21
Psalm: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Second Reading: Romans 8:22-27
Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Sunday, May 30 — The Holy Trinity

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm: Psalm 29
Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17
Gospel: John 3:1-17



We remember in prayer...

We remember in prayer:

Marge Schaper, Edith, Mary Fricke, Jerry & Linda Nack, Rowan & Barb Hinds, Meghan, Safety and peace for communities, Guests of the Community Meals Program, All affected by COVID, Lil, Sonja, Lucy Acker, Nicole DeCamp, Doug Patur, Scott Hafso, Jeanne Kuipers, John Pass, Emily & Steve Gacek, Ray Harbolt, Margot Inman, Duane Jacobson, Marian James, Bernice Jensen, Josee Jordan, Florence Kinnune, Jeannie Lindquist, Vern Lindquist, Dorothy Soland, Randi Strom, Margit Welch.

We ask for peace and comfort for those mourning the death of loved ones:

Jake Schaper (brother to Lena Schaper); Gregory (nephew to Bill & Joanne Suttmeier); Marc Montague (husband to Kimberly Montague, father of Ashley & Anna); Julie Engebrect (Shelley Howe)

We pray for expectant mothers:

Marian Martin (Stacy Smith); Alyssa Saavedra (Cheryl Neeb); Shawna McIntyre (Cheryl Neeb); Jessica Murguia (Cheryl Hauser)

We pray for members and friends serving in the Military; Fire and Police Department personnel; Emergency Room personnel.

We prayer for safety and strength to those living in the wake of all disasters, and all who serve as first responders.

We pray for our missionaries and global missions:

Henrik & Patty Christopherson. For the congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: Pepe at Las Brisas, Merci in San Antonio and Harold at Las Lomas. Alexandra, Miriam, and Kati, the three recipients of our Global Missions Peru Scholarships. MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania.

May Birthdays & Anniversaries



5/2	David Carlson	5/18	Betty Evans
	Ernie Hughes		Joan Schlemlein
5/3	Karen Gerde		Mikey Inman
5/4	Karen Quinn	5/19	Russell FitzGerald
5/6	Emily Waltzer	5/23	Joan Friel
5/8	Marcy Wood		Lucille Hersey
5/9	Lisa Thomasson	5/29	Joanne Suttmeier
5/13	Jo Hess		
5/15	Marshall Inman		
5/17	Ken Konigsmark		



5/10	Henrik & Patty Christopherson
5/21	Mike & Lisa DeVogel



Our Savior Lutheran Church

745 Front Street South
Issaquah, WA 98027
(425) 392-4169

Stay connected!
www.oslcissaquah.org

All information for the *Focus* newsletter is **due by the 15th of each month**, unless noted otherwise. Please email items to office@oslcissaquah.org.

OSLC STAFF DIRECTORY

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